

STATE OF HAWAII OFFICE OF ELECTIONS

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TESTIMONY OF THE

CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 168

RELATING TO THE ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF BALLOTS

February 5, 2019

Chair Lee and members of the House Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 168. The purpose of this bill is to authorize a voter with special needs to request that a ballot be forwarded by electronic transmission at any time.

This bill ensures accessibility for voters with special needs who choose to cast their ballot by mail. Currently, a ballot may be electronically transmitted to meet the requirements of the Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), or an absentee mail voter within 5 days of the election. By allowing voters with special needs to request a ballot be forwarded by electronic transmission at any time, they could conveniently vote with a compatible device as soon as the ballot is available.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 168.